

2004N-0115 - Prescription Drug Importation; Public Meeting

FDA Comment Number : EC47

Submitter : Mr. Aaron Berg

Date & Time: 05/27/2004 02:05:04

Organization : Mr. Aaron Berg

Individual Consumer

Category :

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I wanted to make a few quick comments on Mr. Hubbards' concerns about Minnesota's new policies to allow people to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.

I believe his pressure to keep Minnesota residents from purchasing Canadian drugs flies in the face of our free market society. In every other industry, people are free to purchase goods and services from outside the US (see automotive suppliers, computer parts, the list is truly endless). For some reason, people want to argue that US residents cannot look outside the US to purchase prescription medicine at a reasonable cost.

The issue of safety is ridiculous and a thinly veiled attempt to discourage this legitimate practice; I have every confidence that the drugs that are sold to the Canadian public have met safety testing that is just as strict as the US's.

The issue of profitability is ridiculous. Drug companies would not sell their drugs at a loss to Canada, that much is obvious. The fact that Canada has been able to negotiate lower prices for their residents is to be lauded. If the drug manufacturers need to find cost cutting measures, I suggest looking at the millions of dollars spent on erectile dysfunction television ads alone as a good starting point.

The truth is, the complete lack of competitive pressure placed on US drug companies (due largely by their abilities to fix prices as they see fit) has led to irresponsible business practices and the grossly inflated cost of prescription medication. I applaud Governor Pawlenty's efforts to creatively remedy this situation, as it seems no federal agency is interested in becoming part of the solution.

For the record, I am fortunate to have a good work prescription drug plan, so I am not required to look to Canada myself for my prescription drug needs. However, I think it is critical that we curb the irresponsibility of the US drug companies, and if it takes circumventing the usual channels to accomplish that, I'm 100% for it.

Very Sincerely,

Aaron N. Berg